

STUDIES IN THE EUPATORIEAE (ASTERCAEAE). LIX.

A NEW GENUS, STEVIOPSIS.

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In Steviopsis we have an example of a single localized extremely distinctive species. Recognition of such genera presents no problem, and we establish the concept now as part of our attempt to complete the generic reorganization of the Mexican Eupatorieae. Actual relationships of the genus remain in question though some possibilities can be discussed.

Steviopsis is thoroughly distinct in its narrow whorled leaves, long pedunculate heads with eximbricate phyllaries and corolla lobes longer than wide and non-glandular. The achene is also rather distinctive, being densely setose with a poorly developed carpodium. The species was originally named as a Stevia and vegetatively resembles some of the species of that genus. Stevia differs from Steviopsis by the papillose inner surfaces of the corolla lobes, the hairs inside the corolla, the distinctive obovate anther appendages and the five flowers per head.

In basic characters, Steviopsis is Critonioid. The corolla lobes are smooth on both surfaces, the style base has neither enlargement nor hairs and the stylar appendages are only slightly mamillate. The genus Tamaulipa has similar eximbricate phyllaries but differs in all the other distinctive features given above. The very broad flat style branches, the glabrous corollas and the restriction to the Mexican highlands have caused us to associate this genus with Dyscritogyne, but that genus has imbricated multiseriate phyllaries, more prominent anther collars with many short quadrate cells, and opposite to subopposite leaves. It is useless to seek relatives among the larger genera such as Koanophylon with its broad glandular corolla lobes, or Critonia with its imbricate stramineous phyllaries.

Steviopsis R.M.King & H.Robinson, genus novum Asteracearum (Eupatorieae). Plantae herbaceae erectae raro ramosae. Caules teretes leniter striati inferne glabriusculi. Folia verticillata breviter petiolata, laminis anguste lanceolatis breviter pubescentibus nonglanduliferis serrulatis. Inflorescentiae laxepaniculatae; pedicelli saepe breves. Involucre squamae eximbricatae 20-30 parce pubescentes ca. 2-3-seriatae interiores subaequilongae exteriores irregulares; receptacula leniter

convexa glabra. Flores 15-20 in capitulo; corollae anguste infundibulares 5-lobatae extus et intus glabrae, cellulis oblongis vel linearibus parietibus exterioribus sinuosis, lobis aliquantum elongatis laevibus; filamenta antherarum in parte superiore brevia, cellulis plerumque elongatis inferne quadratis, parietibus annulate vel intricate ornatis, cellulis exothecialibus subquadratis vel brevioribus, appendicibus antherarum oblongis; styli inferne non nodulosi glabri, appendicibus sensim taeniatis sublaevibus; achaenia prismatica 4-5-costata dense setifera et glandulifera; carpopodia indistincta, cellulis quadratis multiseriatis non scleroticis; pappus setiformis uniseriatus, setis 25-30 scabris ad apicem rigidis non dilatatis, cellulis apicalibus acutis.

Species typica: Stevia rapunculoides A.P.Decandolle

The genus is monotypic.

Steviopsis rapunculoides (A.P.Decandolle) R.M.King & H.Robinson, comb. nov. Stevia rapunculoides A.P.Decandolle, Prodr. 5: 124. 1836. Eupatorium dasycarpum A.Gray ex S. Watson, Proc. Am. Acad. 22: 420. 1887. Mexico.

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